

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SANTIAGO 4628

E.O. 11652:GDS

TAGS: OEXC, CI

SUBJECT: CHILEAN UNIVERSITY SCENE

REF: SANTIAGO 4585

SUMMARY: MILITARY JUNTA APPEARS TO BE OVERCOMING POTENTIALLY EMBARRASSING CONFRONTATION WITH UNIVERSITY COMMUNITY IN STEMMING RESIGNATION UCHILE RECTOR BOENINGER WHO CLAIMED NAMING OF MILITARY "DELEGATE" TO UCHILE'S VALPARAISO CAMPUS INFRINGED ON UNIVERSITY AUTONOMY. BOENINGER HELD "HIGHLY POSITIVE" MEETING WITH FOUR JUNTA LEADERS SEPT 25 AND IS NOW REPORTED TO BE REMAINING AS RECTOR. OTHER RESULT OF MEETING SAID TO BE CLOSE WORKING RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN CHILEAN UNIVERSITIES AND NEW GOVERNMENT ON UNIVERSITIES' REORGANIZATION. END SUMMARY

1. AMID FLURRY OF RUMORS AND MEDIA REPORTS OF HIS RESIGNATION, UCHILE RECTOR EDGARDO BOENINGER KAUSEL REPORTED BY UCHILE DIRECTOR OF DEPT OF INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS TO HAVE HELD "HIGHLY POSITIVE" MEETING WITH FOUR MILITARY JUNTA MEMBERS SEPT 25. BOENINGER WENT AS PRESIDENT (CHAIRMAN) OF COUNCIL OF RECTORS AND AS HEAD OF UCHILE. MEETING RESULTED IN "CLOSE WORKING RELATIONSHIP" BETWEEN UNIVERSITIES AND JUNTA ON REORGANIZATION OF UNIVERSITY SYSTEM. BOENINGER ALSO REPORTED TO BE STAYING AS RECTOR.

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2. MEDIA REPORTED SEPT 25 THAT BOENINGER HAD SUBMITTED DEFINITE RESIGNATION EFFECTIVE OCT 1 BUT DID NOT REVEAL IT WAS IN REACTION TO NAMING BY VALPARAISO MILITARY GOVERNOR OF MILITARY "DELEGATE" TO UCHILE'S VALPARAISO CAMPUS, WHICH BOENINGER

ALLEGEDLY CONSIDERED INFRINGEMENT OF UNIVERSITY AUTONOMY; BUT LATE EVENING CHANNEL 13 NEWSCAST SAID MEETING RECTORS WITH MIN EDUCATION HAD BEEN FRUITFUL.

3. OUR SOURCE, DOUGLAS ESCOBAR, SEPT 26 CALLED REPORTS OF BOENINGER RESIGNATION "INCORRECT INFORMATION" AND ASSERTED HE WAS "SURE BOENINGER IS NOT RESIGNING; HE WILL CONTINUE AS RECTOR."

4. BOENINGER-JUNTA MEETING REPORTEDLY ALSO RESULTED IN CLARIFICATION OF MISUNDERSTANDINGS BETWEEN UNIVERSITIES AND NEW GOVERNMENT AND AGREEMENT TO WORK CLOSELY IN DEFINING UNIVERSITIES' MODUS OPERANDI. ESCOBAR SAID MISUNDERSTANDINGS "RAPIDLY CLEARED UP" DURING MEETING, AND JUNTA MEMBERS EXPRESSED COMPLETE WILLINGNESS TO COOPERATE WITH UNIVERSITY SYSTEM TO OBTAIN RESOURCES FOR FUTURE DEVELOPMENT. ESCOBAR SAID BOENINGER STAFF NOW WORKING ON DOCUMENT TO BE SUBMITTED SEPT 26 OR 27 TO GOVERNMENT OUTLINING OVERALL UNIVERSITY SYSTEM REORGANIZATION AND DEFINING "RULES OF GAME" BETWEEN UNIVERSITIES AND JUNTA.

5. ESCOBAR SAID VALPARAISO PROVINCIAL GOVERNOR HAD NAMED "DELEGATE" TO UCHILE BRANCH THERE IN ANSWER TO REQUEST FOR PROTECTION MADE BY ANTI-MARXIST FACULTY MEMBERS IN WHAT WAS MARXIST-CONTROLLED BRANCH BEFORE CHANGE OF GOVERNMENT. ESCOBAR AND UCHILE VICE-RECTOR ENRIQUE D'ETIGNY TOLD CAO DACISION TO NAME "DELEGATE" WAS MADE AT PROVINCIAL LEVEL IN ANSWER TO THAT REQUEST AND WITHOUT CONSULTATION AT NATIONAL GOVERNMENT LEVEL. BOTH SAID QUESTION OF "DELEGATE'S" ROLE ON ALL THREE VALPARAISO CAMPUSES HAD BEEN RESOLVED IN BOENINGER-JUNTA MEETING AND HAD CEASED BEING AN ISSUE. COUNCIL OF RECTORS AND GOVERNMENT ALSO EXPECTING ISSUE STATEMENT THIS WEEK CLEARING UP PUBLIC MISUNDERSTANDINGS REGARDING UNIVERSITIES' RELATIONS WITH JUNTA.

6. ESCOBAR SAID UCHILE'S VALPARAISO CAMPUS BEING REORGANIZED BY HUGO ZUNINO, FORMER DEAN OF UCHILE ECONOMICS FACULTY IN SANTIAGO, IN CLOSE COORDINATION WITH DR. BARAONA (FIRST NAME CONFIDENTIAL

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UNKNOWN), WHO WAS APPOINTED "DELEGATE" AS REPRESENTATIVE OF FACULTY, WHICH HE IS, AND OF NAVY, FOR WHOM HE WORKS AS DENTIST. ESCOBAR REPORTS NO FRICTION BETWEEN ZUNINO AND BARAONA. ZUNINO REPORTS TO BOENINGER, AND BARAONA REPORTS TO MILITARY, BUT BOTH ON SAME WAVELENGTH. ESCOBAR SAYS UCHILE MAINTAINS NORMAL CONTROL OVER ITS VALPARAISO CAMPUS AND IS PAYING SALARIES ON SCHEDULE. MEANWHILE, BOTH VALPARAISO BPAO AND CATHOLIC UNIV. VALPO OFFICIAL REPORT SEPT 24 RESIGNATION THAT UNIVERSITY'S "DELEGATE", NAVY CAPTAIN KOEGEL, AND REPLACEMENT BY CHRISTIAN DEMOCRAT DE LA MAZA (FIRST NAME NOT REPORTED).

7. ANOTHER MISUNDERSTANDING BETWEEN JUNTA AND UCHILE, SAID ESCOBAR, WAS CAUSED BY SEPT 22 APPOINTMENT BY MILITARY OF DIRECTOR OF J.J. AGUIRRE HOSPITAL IN SANTIAGO, WHICH MILITARY

THOUGHT WAS UNDER NATIONAL HEALTH SERVICE. HOSPITAL IS UNDER UCHILE, WHICH NAMED ITS OWN DIRECTOR. WHEN MILITARY NOTED ORGANIZATION RELATIONSHIP, IT WITHDREW ITS APPOINTMENT.

8. SEPT 26 "LA TERCERA", MEANWHILE, REPORTS UCONCEPCION RECTOR CARLOS VON PLESSING PRESS CONFERENCE IN WHICH HE ANNOUNCED THAT UNIVERSITY BEING REORGANIZED UNDER BROAD POWERS VON PLESSING TOOK FOR HIMSELF AND WITH ADVICE OF COUNCIL OF DIRECTORS (CONSEJO DIRECTIVO) HE NAMED TO REPLACE FORMER SUPERIOR COUNCIL. "LA TERCERA" QUOTES VON PLESSING AS SAYING UCONCEPCION MAINTAINS "CRITICAL ATTITUDE" TOWARD PRESENT OR ANY OTHER GOVERNMENT. "LA TERCERA" FURTHER REPORTS ACTIVITIES OF UCONCEPCION CENTRAL ADMINISTRATION HAVE STARTED UP AGAIN AND ACADEMIC UNITS EXPECTED TO BEGIN WORKING SEPT 26. NEWSPAPER SAYS THIS DOES NOT IMPLY IMMEDIATE RESUMPTION OF CLASSES BUT RECTOR WAS TRYING TO AVOID SECOND SEMESTER BEING MISSED EVEN IF THAT MIGHT MEAN WORKING UNTIL END OF FEB 1974, WITHOUT VACATIONS. SECOND SEMESTER NORMALLY ENDS IN DEC.

9. IN SEPARATE STORY, "LA TERCERA" REPORTS THAT BEACH HOME IN ALGARROBO OF CATHOLIC UNIV. OF SANTIAGO RECTOR FERNANDO CASTILLO WAS SEARCHED AND FOUND TO CONTAIN VARIOUS CUBAN POSTERS REPORTED BY CASTILLO'S SON AS HAVING BEEN BROUGHT BY HIS PARENTS FROM CUBA AT MID-YEAR. CATHOLIC UNIV. OF SANTIAGO VICE-RECTOR OF COMMUNICATIONS JAIME BELLALTA, WHO IS CLOSE TO CASTILLO PERSONALLY AND ORGANIZATIONALLY, HAD TOLD CAO SEPT 25 THAT CASTILLO, WHO SUFFERS CARDIAC CONDITION, HAS REMAINED AWAY FROM HIS UNIVERSITY CONFIDENTIAL

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DUTIES UNDER DOCTORS' ORDERS SINCE BEFORE SEPT 11 AND IS IN SERIOUS PHYSICAL CONDITION RESULTING FROM SEVERE STRAINS OF OFFICE AND BECAUSE OF DEATH OF A SON LAST DEC AND MARXIST ACTIVITIES OF DAUGHTER (MARRIED TO ANDRES PASCAL ALLENDE, NEPHEW OF FORMER PRESIDENT, BOTH OF WHOM DISAPPEARED DURING MILITARY INTERVENTION) AND OF ANOTHER SON.

10. SEPT 23 "LA TERCERA" PUBLISHED STATEMENT ATTRIBUTED TO SUPERIOR COUNCIL OF CATHOLIC UNIV OF SANTIAGO STATING AIM OF UNIVERSITY TO "INTENSIFY AND PERFECT...ITS PERMANENT EFFORT TO DEVELOP AND DIVULGE CULTURAL AND SCIENTIFIC VALUES AS SERVICE TO COMMUNITY...TO MAKE ITS SOLID CONTRIBUTION TO PROCESS OF NATIONAL RECONSTRUCTION UNDER CIRCUMSTANCES WHICH NATION NOW EXPERIENCING...TO BE (CHILE'S) CRITICAL AND CONSTRUCTIVE CONSCIENCE IN PURSUIT OF CONCRETE AND EFFECTIVE SOLUTIONS FOR GIVING CHILEANS SOCIAL PEACE, JUSTICE, LIBERTY AND WELL-BEING THAT HAVE BEEN THEIR PERMANENT ASPIRATIONS..(AND) TO RETHINK AND RECONSTRUCT CHILE'S INTEGRAL DEMOCRATIC LIFE WHICH HISTORICALLY HAS BEEN ORIGINAL MARK OF SOCIAL AND POLITICAL CONVIVIALITY THAT CHILE HAS GIVEN TO ALL CHILEANS AND WHICH HAD BEEN SERIOUSLY BROKEN IN RECENT TIMES." STATEMENT SAID CATHOLIC UNIV. OF SANTIAGO HAD "MORAL AUTHORITY" FOR ITS ROLE BECAUSE IT HAD "SHOWN POSSIBILITY OF MAINTAINING FECUND AND

CREATIVE DIALOGUE BETWEEN PERSONS OF MOST DIVERSE IDEOLOGIES, WHICH MADE POSSIBLE ADVANCEMENT ON ROAD TO REFORM IN DEMOCRACY, PLURALISM AND RESPECT FOR PERSONS." ALTHOUGH SOUNDING THEME OF "RECONSTRUCTION" WHICH JUNTA COINED, STATEMENT FELL SHORT OF ENDORSING NEW GOVERNMENT.

COMMENT: REPORTS OF BOENINGER RESIGNATION CAUSED WIDESPREAD INTEREST BECAUSE OF RECTOR'S REPUTATION AS STALWART OPPONENT OF ALLENDE GOVERNMENT. IF, AS APPEARS TRUE, BOENINGER DID SUBMIT HIS RESIGNATION, THIS CONSTITUTED FIRST KNOWN OPEN FALLING OUT BETWEEN AN IMPORTANT SECTOR OF CHILEAN POLITY AND JUNTA. BELLALTA REPORTED THAT IN MEETING SEPT 24 WITH OFFICIALS OF THREE SANTIAGO UNIVERSITIES, BOENINGER HAD MADE IT QUITE CLEAR HE WOULD NOT COMPROMISE PRINCIPAL OF UNIVERSITY AUTONOMY. BELLALTA SAID HE, FOR ONE, WOULD FEEL MORALLY OBLIGATED TO FOLLOW BOENINGER'S EXAMPLE AND SUBMIT HIS OWN RESIGNATION AS VICE-RECTOR; AND HE EXPECTED OTHER UNIVERSITY OFFICIALS IN APPOINTIVE POSITIONS WOULD ALSO FOLLOW SUIT. BY AVOIDING
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BOENINGER'S RESIGNATION, NEW GOVERNMENT HAS OVERCOME POTENTIALLY EMBARRASSING CONFRONTATION WITH UNIVERSITY COMMUNITY, WHICH IS GENERALLY TRYING TO MAINTAIN SOME SEMBLANCE OF AUTONOMY AND INDEPENDENCE WHILE COOPERATING WITH JUNTA IN RECOGNITION OF FACT THAT MILITARY IN CONTROL.

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